(c) Climate Change is a long term process and it is difficult to assess its effects on various sectors in the short term. However, according to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases. A global assessment of data since 1970 has shown, *inter alia,* that by 2050s, annual average river runoff and water availability are projected to increase by 10-40% at high latitudes and in some wet tropical areas, and decrease by 10-30% over some dry regions at mid-latitudes and in the dry tropics. Drought-affected areas are likely to increase in extent, heavy precipitation events are very likely to increase in frequency. The report mentions impacts on Ecosystems, Food, Fibre and Forest products, Coastal systems and low-lying areas, Industry, Settlement, Society and Health.

(d) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol address the issues related to climate change. India is a Party to both these agreements and the Government of India is conscious of the various concerns that may arise due to climate change. The existing legislative and policy frame work in various sectors of concern, together with programmes which target conservation of rivers, improvement of urban air quality, enhanced forestation, promotion of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency etc. contribute to addressing climate change issues. There are also various programs addressing climate variability concerns, the expenditure of which accounts for 2.6% of our GDP in 2006-07. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures, and research on drought resistant crops, and several others. Further, the Government has set up the "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" on 7th May, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts. In addition, a Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th June, 2007 constituting eminent persons to evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the National level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment.

Satellite based system for fishermen

*314. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS PRAMILA BOHINDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to install Satellite based system to help fishermen in distress in the ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time-frame within which it would be installed on the Orissa coastline; and

(d) the total number of boats that would be equipped with this system in a phased manner in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The system provides the capability for the fishermen in distress to notify their location and type of distress. The system developed indigenously is at present under user trials.

(c) and (d) It is planned to distribute about 1000 units in the country during the course of the year 2008. These units will be handed over to the Indian Coast Guard who will decide the location of the equipment.

Rising number of vehicles

*315. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is fully aware of the unprecendented increase of vehicles in urban areas leading to major traffic and parking problems and at this rate, very soon, an unmanageable stage may come for want of necessary infrastructural facilities;

(b) if so, the policy initiatives envisages as long and short term measures; and

(c) whether in this context there would be a move to restrict the purchase and regulate use of vehicles on certain routes and during certain hours as in foreign countries, besides all out efforts to develop infrastructural facilities like new roads, broadening existing roads, construction of flyovers, diversions, by-pass roads, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Realising the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. It, *inter-alia,* seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel, use of cleaner technologies. It offers Central Government's financial support for investments in public transport, infrastructure for greater use of non-motorized modes, as well as in the construction of parking facilities, including demonstrative pilot projects. The thrust of the policy is on moving people rather than moving vehicles.

The policy initiatives envisaged as long and short term measures to deal with the transportation issues are the following:—

(i) Running of Modern City Bus Services on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

(ii) Preparation of comprehensive mobility plan duly integrating land use and transport planning.

(iii) Prioritization of public transport and non-motorised mode of transport projects under JNNURM.

(iv) Capacity Building at institutional and individual level, innovative financing mechanism, institutional coordination and association of the private sector.

(v) Creating public awareness and promoting Green Travel habits.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.